Amendment of Narcotics Act

151. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to further amend the Narcotics Act in order to combat the global menace of drug trafficking; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Cabinet Sub-Committee, constituted under the Chairmanship of the Home Minister, had, inter-alia, recommended that the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 19855 may be suitably amended to provide for the following:

(i) making drug offences non-bailable;

(ii) forfeiture of propery of drug traffickers;

(iii)procedure for pre-trial disposal of seized drugs: and

(iv) not applying any privilege or remission to the punishments awarded under the Act.

A comprehensive draft legislation to amend the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 in order to further strengthen it is at an advanced stage of finalisation.

Pak agents arrested in Kashmir

152. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Pak-trained agents have been apprehended in Kashmir recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the resources available with the Statet Government is not sufficient to check such infiltration;

(c) whether complicity of Pakistan Government in such matter has been established; and

(d) whether any plan to let loose a Punjab type terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir by these agents has come to light; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d) It is reported that quite a number of persons have gone across to Pakistan Occupied Kashmir/Pakistan and have received arms training of whom a good number have returned to Jammu and Kashmir. Many of them have since been apprehended. The Government of Jammu & Kashmir have reported that during interrogation it was revealed that these persons have been receiving arms training in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. Available information indicates that the object of these persons is to create disorder and uncertainity in the State.

The State Administration has been taking action against infiltrators and saboteurs. The Central Government have been keeping a close watch on the situation prevailing in the State and assisting the State Government as and when necesary.